

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXX. No. 363

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway. —MORE—SAR.

LUCY RUSHBORN'S NEW THEATRE, Nos. 728

AND 730 BROADWAY.—THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 535 Broadway, opposite

Metropolitan Hotel.—ETIOPIAN MINSTERS, DANING, &c.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Broadway.—SAR.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS, The Old School,

Metropolitan Hotel.—ETIOPIAN MINSTERS, DANING, &c.

NEW NATIONAL CIRQUE, 27 and 29 Bowery.—ETIOPIAN

MINSTERS, DANING, &c. Afternoon at 2; Evening at 7 1/2.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Metropolitan Hall, 472 Broadway.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 101 Broadway.—ETIOPIAN MINSTERS,

DANING, &c. Afternoon at 2; Evening at 7 1/2.

MOORE'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETIOPIAN MINSTERS,

DANING, &c. Afternoon at 2; Evening at 7 1/2.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—

ART GALLERY, 65 Broadway.—HARRINGTON'S GREAT

PAINTING.

WASHINGTON HALL, Harlem.—De Cordova and the

KING OF THE THUNDER.

New York, Friday, December 29, 1865.

THE NEWS.

A protracted interview between the President and Secretary of War took place yesterday, the object or result of which has not been ascertained.

Additional important Mexican news is furnished in our Vera Cruz correspondence to the 13th inst. The imperial papers announce that Don Manuel Ruiz, Judge of the Supreme Court of the republic, has abandoned Vera Cruz and retreated to the latter continuing to act as President after his constitutional term has expired. Events at and in the vicinity of Vera Cruz do not indicate any intention of the French to withdraw from the country at an early day, but on the contrary are regarded there as showing a disposition to contest their occupancy of Mexican territory with the United States.

The arrival of soldiers from France continues, twelve hundred being landed at Vera Cruz on the 6th inst., and about three hundred more on the 11th, all of whom were immediately sent into the field. French cannon and other war munitions and supplies are still daily arriving, and the defenses of the city are being greatly strengthened and rearmament with the heaviest and most improved guns, the work being carried on as secretly as possible, and principally at night. Further particulars are given of the victories alluded to in yesterday's HERALD, which the imperialists claim to have gained at Monterey over the forces of the republican General Escobedo, on the 22d, 23d, 24th and 25th of November. They represent that he was driven out of the city with considerable loss and pursued for about one hundred and fifty miles. Our correspondent, however, regards these boasted triumphs as very small affairs, General Escobedo, after holding the city for some days, during which his troops stubbornly defended their position in several severe engagements, deeming it prudent to withdraw, in consequence of the imperatives being largely reinforced. A hoarse of despatches from the Mexican capital, on his way to Washington, was in Vera Cruz on the 13th inst. The rebel Maury, Maximilian's Commissioner of Colonization, has issued another circular setting forth the advantages of Mexico for emigration; but the majority of those who have already arrived there appear to be in a miserable condition.

In regard to the progress of the contest on the Pacific coast of Mexico, a San Francisco despatch states that the republican General Alvarez was within twenty-eight miles of Acapulco on the 30th of November, and was confident of success. He was greatly harassing the imperialists, and had cut off their supplies of provisions from the surrounding country.

Our Paris correspondent embodies a number of significant comments of the French press upon General Schœlcher's mission to Europe and his recent speech in Paris. The prevailing opinion in the French capital is that Napoleon is beginning to see a hole through which he can escape from his Mexican perplexities with clean clothes. In the miscellaneous extracts from the European papers will be found some strange revelations of court life in the Old World.

Canadian affairs, as presented in our Toronto and Montreal despatches, appear pretty much mixed, as usual. Mr. Howland has been appointed to succeed Mr. Brown as President of the Council in the Canadian Ministry; but the reformers, whose chief representative Mr. Brown is, are not satisfied with the condition of things, and are preparing to unite with the Union (French Canadian) party for the overthrow of the coalition Ministry. The case of the rebel pirate George, claimed by the United States government, is being argued before the Canadian courts.

The Toronto Leader is publishing a long and interesting series of medical articles, written by Doctor Blackburn, the practitioner charged with attempting to introduce a yellow fever and smallpox among the United States troops during our late war.

Senator Williams, of Oregon, who is a member of the joint Congressional committee to investigate the claims of the representatives of the Southern States to admission, has recently spent a few days in Virginia on a tour of inspection of the condition and sentiments of the people of that State, and he has come to the conclusion, our Richmond correspondent states, that Virginia loyalty, as represented in its Legislature and the social circles of its capital city, is an absolute myth. He says the people still cling as fondly as ever to the exploded fallacies of their Southern confederacy and entertain a strong hostility to the national Congress, though they profess great personal respect for President Johnson, owing to the intimacy with which he has dealt with them. Our correspondent states that it has recently come to light that the government made a mistake in the arrest of R. B. Winder, who is now confined in Libby prison on charge of being implicated in the Andersonville outrages on national soldiers, W. S. Winder, who has made his escape from the country, being the person wanted.

Governor Jonathan Worth, the new Executive of North Carolina, assumed the duties of his office on Saturday last. The arrest of every person known to have participated in the rioting at Alexandria, Va., on Christmas Day has been ordered by General Angier, who also directs that none of them shall be given up on the application of the civil authorities.

There was considerable fighting between the whites and blacks at Clarksville, Tennessee, on Christmas Day. An affray between intoxicated negro seamen belonging to the gunboat Thetis and the police took place in Wilmington, N. C., on Wednesday night. Several pistol shots were fired, but none were severely wounded.

Further interesting details of the recent wreck along the coast are supplied in our columns this morning. The steamer Idaho, which went ashore on Barnegat Shoals on last Saturday night, will prove a total loss. All the persons on board of her were saved, as were also those on the bark Flora, which went ashore at Wreck Pond Inlet, on Wednesday morning, during a heavy fog. Hoping were yesterday entertained of getting the latter vessel off. The schooner Sophris, from Fall River, Mass., for Bristol, R. I., is sunk in Vineyard Sound, and it is supposed that all her crew have been drowned. An unknown bark was yesterday morning discovered among the breakers in Vineyard Sound, and her destruction was considered certain. Wrecks are also reported on the Virginia and North Carolina shores.

A list of all the cases of wrecks in the October gales on the Florida coast which have been passed upon in the court at Key West are given in our correspondence from that place, with the amount of salvage rendered in the cases of two steamers, three ships, six barks, five brigs and two schooners.

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors yesterday the Comptroller reported the amount paid to the superintendents and builders of the new Court House to have been twenty thousand two hundred and sixty-five dollars, at five per cent. A motion to adjourn the contract was referred, Mr. Biggs stating that the bulk of the

materials were already paid for, and that the balance would amount to but little. The usual percentage allowed to builders for important buildings is ten per cent, and private buildings are generally built in this manner. Architects get two or three per cent on all materials, and the builders from six to ten per cent. The new building is being roofed in now, and the court rooms will be ready for occupancy in the spring. The dome and the porticoes will take a longer time to finish, the splendid carved capitals of the columns requiring eight or nine months to cut. The percentage system was adopted, in imitation of private enterprises, to secure a speedy completion and do away with the delays of salaried officials. The sum of five hundred dollars was directed to be paid to the Clerk of the Excise Commissioners for services during the year. The amount of two thousand nine hundred and fifty-four dollars was ordered to be paid for legal services to the county during the recent gubernatorial investigation. The Board adjourned till to-day at three o'clock P. M.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon, and transacted a great deal of routine business. A communication from the Mayor relative to the accommodations to be provided for the Law Department of the city was referred to the Committee on Repairs and Supplies. The Board created the office of Inspector of City Railroads, the salary of the official being fixed at three thousand dollars per annum. The sum of four thousand dollars was donated to the Ladies' Union Aid Society. The ordinance relative to the widening of Ann street was referred to the Committee on Streets. The Board meets again at one o'clock this afternoon.

The Board of Councilmen were in session yesterday, and transacted a large amount of business. They occurred with the Aldermen in directing the completion of the Soldiers' Monument at Calvary Cemetery, at a cost not to exceed the amount originally appropriated, and in granting the application of the City Commissioners for a ground in Battery Park on which to erect houses for storing fire apparatus. The Corporation Council was directed to take the necessary legal steps to widen Broadway twenty-three feet, north of Fifty-seventh street, running with the westerly line of Seventh avenue, five hundred feet distant therefrom, to the southerly line of Fifty-fifth street. That officer was also instructed to take legal proceedings for widening and extending Ann and Fulton streets from Park row to Fulton ferry. An appropriation of five thousand dollars was made to a parochial school in Fourteenth street, which was vigorously opposed by Mr. Patterson, he claiming that such appropriations tended to sap the foundation of the public school system. Five thousand dollars was donated to the Union Home School for the education of the children of volunteers. One thousand dollars was voted to each of the Presidents of the Boards and to the Commissioners of the Sixty-two Fire Companies. Three hundred dollars each was granted to the Five Points House of Industry and the Ladies' Mission. The Council to the Corporation was instructed to defend the Board of Councilmen on a charge of contempt of court in the case of Houghton versus O'Brien. The Board will meet this afternoon.

Judge Giles, of the United States District Court in Baltimore, yesterday rendered a decision remanding to military authority for trial Ralph Abernethy, formerly a lieutenant in the national army, and who is under arrest on charges of desertion to the rebels, being a spy and having given testimony before a rebel court martial in Richmond which led to the wrongful conviction and execution of Captain Dixon.

The business of the United States Circuit Court for the year 1865 is summed up in the following brief review.—In the common law branch of the court there were commenced seventy-three suits of civil character (exclusive of cases under the Internal Revenue act and others brought against the Collector of the port for alleged excessive executions of duties) of which were held and disposed of in the equity branch there were one hundred and twenty-three suits commenced; forty-seven were heard on motion of judgment, forty-two were granted and fifty-one denied. In admiralty on appeal from the District Court, thirteen cases were heard and disposed of, and seven appeals were taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. On the criminal calendar were seventy-four indictments for various offenses, of which sixty-two were tried.

The summing up for the plaintiff in the Strong divorce suit was concluded at six o'clock yesterday afternoon, and the Judge will sit on the 1st of January.

A motion came up yesterday before Judge Barnard, in the Supreme Court, chambers, on behalf of Mrs. Harriet L. Raynor, to recover alimony from her former husband, W. M. Raynor, at the rate of eight dollars per week, for over two years. In February, 1862, a judgment of divorce was granted to Mrs. Raynor, giving alimony to this amount. Shortly after the lady began to live with her former husband, with whom she stayed for nearly two years, and then again left him. The question now arises as to whether the action of a wife in returning to her husband after a judgment of divorce is granted does not cancel all legal decrees as regards alimony. The defendant was formerly a detective on the Metropolitan police, and also on General Baker's force in Washington. The decision was reserved.

An application was also made yesterday before Judge Barnard, at chambers, to bail Christian Walters, indicted for the shooting of David Leffen, in Division street, on the 23rd of last September. Leffen at present lies in a very precarious condition in the hospital. The Judge decided that he would admit the prisoner to bail should a certificate of the house surgeon be produced stating that the wounded man was in no danger of death.

The Hon. Schuyler Colfax delivered his lecture "Across the Continent" last evening, in the Cooper Institute, to one of the largest and most enthusiastic audiences that has assembled within this building upon such an occasion. The length of time. The lecture hall was crowded in every part, and the speaker was obliged to stand for half an hour before he could get to his seat. The platform itself was crowded, chairs being placed close up to the galleries to accommodate the ladies and gentlemen who were interested listeners to his lecture. Mr. Colfax briefly stated the motives which led to his undertaking a journey across the continent—a desire to view for himself the capabilities and resources of States and Territories which had contributed and promised to contribute so much to the wealth and power of the United States. The descriptive portion of the lecture was listened to with great attention, the lecturer, from his scholarly choice of words and his expression of feeling, still under the influence of the emotions the sublime scenes through which he passed gave rise to, taking his hearers' imagination with him over the lofty sierras and through the mountain gorges and spreading plains he had traversed in his route. He was particularly applauded when speaking of Mexico as still a republic, and of the duty which would devolve upon this government to abolish polygamy in Utah—that remaining one of the twin relics of barbarism. He was very condemnatory of those United States officers in Utah who indulged in a plurality of wives, thus setting at naught the very laws of the government they were sent there to maintain. Towards the abolition of this great cancer on the body politic he thought nothing would be so effective as completing the great Pacific Railway. His remarks on this point also drew forth hearty applause.

A lecture was delivered last evening in Clinton Hall by Henry C. Carey on the subject of our national resources, in which he insisted that a protective tariff is the best policy of the nation, and that the cry of free trade is a delusion to a nation with such natural resources as ours.

The new building on the corner of Broadway and Liberty street, occupied by the Mutual Life Insurance Company, was formally opened last evening. A grand reception was held, at which over one thousand guests were present.

The fourteenth anniversary of the Orphan's Home and Asylum, located at the corner of Lexington avenue and Forty-ninth street, took place yesterday. From the report of the secretary and treasurer the finances of the institution appear to be in a satisfactory condition. The children of the establishment have been remarkably healthy, only one having died during the past year. After the anniversary exercises an election for managers and trustees was held.

There is a movement in Fentonism at present looking to the calling of a central arbitrating congress and the clearing away of all the parties to the present strife. It is proposed to have the congress called by State conventions of both divisions. The O'Mahony bonds condemned by the Senate are the subject of inquiry in places to which they have been sent. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana and other places furnish Senate promissories to-day. Two new circles have been organized recently in this city. We give to-day an account of the Fenian proceedings at Union square, with the preparations for the coming convention in Clinton Hall, also several letters from centers and organizers in favor of O'Mahony; and the address of Miss Mahoney to the Sisterhood likewise appears in our columns this morning.

The United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Company's steamer Havana, Captain M. R. Green, will sail to-morrow.

day (Friday) for St. Thomas, P.R., Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio Janeiro, leaving pier No. 33 North river punctually at three o'clock P. M. This is the second voyage of the Havana to the above ports, and the general satisfaction expressed by passengers who went out in her on her first trip as well as those who returned by her, as to the superior seating qualities of this ship and the excellent accommodations for all, should be sufficient to induce those wishing to visit any of the above ports to avail themselves of this opportunity. Mr. J. E. Huertas is the obliging and attentive purser.

A young man named William Keeler, who it was understood was yesterday to engage in a prize fight near the Fashion race course with another individual called Jeff, was arrested by the police at Hunter's Point during the day. The said pugilist, who are light weight fighters, are the champions respectively of what are known as the Georgian and McFarrell factions of boxers of this city. A number of expectant spectators of the sport were assembled at Hunter's Point to take the cars for the ground of contest; but on the aspect of Keeler, finding that the game was spoiled, they scattered, and none of them were arrested.

During a quarrel on Tuesday night between Henry Bauer and John Mice, of No. 310 Seventh avenue, the former, as alleged, struck the latter a severe blow on the head, fracturing his skull, and producing injuries from the effects of which he is not expected to recover. Bauer was arrested and committed.

Over one thousand dollars' worth of India rubber was yesterday morning stolen from pier No. 17 East river. Michael Sullivan, a private watchman on pier No. 40, and two other men were discovered by a policeman, between three and four o'clock in the morning, passing along South street, near Market, carrying bags of India rubber, which it is said to be a portion of the stolen lot. Sullivan was arrested, but his companions dropped their loads and fled. Other portions of the missing stock have been found concealed at pier No. 40, and in a junk shop, and the most of it has been recovered.

William M. D. Conkling and Albert Morgan, fast youths of eighteen and nineteen, were yesterday committed on a charge of practicing an old confidence game, by calling at stores and requesting the proprietors to send specimens of goods to certain houses to enable some person residing there to make a selection, meeting the messenger in the hall, leaving him there, and then pretending to carry the articles up stairs to the supposed purchaser, but really disappearing with them through the back part of the house. In this case the charge against Conkling and Morgan was made by Mr. King, a Fourth avenue watchman, who alleges that they thus swindled him out of four watches, valued at nearly six hundred dollars. Other similar complaints are said to be pending against them.

The departure from this city of the steamship Continental, with the expeditionary party of young ladies for Washington Territory, which was to have taken place last week, has been delayed; but it is now stated that the vessel will positively sail on Tuesday next. The young ladies who are about to try their fortunes in that distant quarter are nearly all in the city.

The town of Pulaski, Tennessee, was visited on Tuesday night last by a tornado which blew down a number of houses. It is reported that several persons were killed, being buried in the ruins of the buildings.

The stock market was a shade firmer and more active yesterday. Governments were firm. Gold was dull, and closed at 145 1/2.

There was but little activity or buoyancy in commercial circles yesterday, and the amount of business done was unusually small. Both in foreign and domestic exchange. Cotton was firm. Groceries were dull and lower. On a shade lower was finer. Wheat was steady. Corn was a shade lower. Pork was irregular. Beef was steady. Lard was firm. Whiskey was nominally a shade lower.

The News from Mexico.—Warlike Preparations at Vera Cruz.

The Mexican news, which we publish this morning, is very interesting and somewhat significant. It may not mean war, but it can hardly be reconciled with the Louis Napoleon idea that "the empire is peace." The facts submitted, in the public estimation, will not sustain the theory that the Emperor of the French is negotiating for a quiet withdrawal of his Emperor of the Mexicans. Since our reports by the last preceding steamer from Vera Cruz another installment of twelve hundred French troops had been landed there and marched up into the interior. Considerable quantities of artillery, small arms and munitions of war were arriving almost daily, and moved in the same direction. The old guns of the castle were being replaced by new ones of heavier calibre, and on the land side of the city the imperialists were actively engaged in strengthening their defenses. These movements may be the preliminary steps to an evacuation, but they certainly look more like deliberate preparations of defence against an expected hostile investment by sea and land.

These warlike proceedings, in fact, give something of color to the rumors at Washington of an alliance between France, England, Spain, Italy and Austria to maintain Maximilian on his Mexican throne, although these reports are admitted to rest upon a very slender foundation. Unquestionably the interests of England do not lie in any such coalition in support of the alleged American schemes of Napoleon, but rather in the opposite direction, even to the extremity of an armed alliance with the United States. Let France be firmly established in the Central American States; and then, commanding all the isthmian passages between the two oceans, not only would the commercial ascendancy of England be thereby endangered, but all her colonies in both hemispheres. What, then, is the meaning of these warlike preparations at Vera Cruz? They are not needed against the Mexican liberals, reduced to a feeble guerrilla system of warfare. Can they be intended as a menace and a challenge to the United States?

We fall back upon President Johnson's Message to Congress, in which the Monroe doctrine is reaffirmed, and wherein he says that "at the proper time" the correspondence between the United States and France in relation to Mexico will be laid before the two houses. We infer from this statement that negotiations are in progress looking to the abandonment of Mexico by Napoleon, and that probably the question of equivalents to France for her peaceable evacuation. In this view, these warlike preparations at Vera Cruz may be designed to assist Mr. Seward in coming to terms. There are tricks of strategy in diplomacy as well as in war.

At all events, we have no doubt that Louis Napoleon has been thoroughly convinced from his correspondence with our government that his Mexican usurpation cannot be recognized, nor even tolerated much longer, by the United States. He must, then, make his election of one of the two alternatives left him. He must retire for the sake of peace, or elect to maintain his position in Mexico at the costs and hazards of a war with the United States. If the nephew, like the uncle, were a believer in his lucky star against all hostile combinations and all contingencies, we might count upon the alternative of war, or an inglorious sacrifice of the Monroe doctrine; but the disastrous mistakes of Napoleon the First have taught Napoleon the Third the saving virtues of prudence and caution to a remarkable degree.

To the analogous exercise of these qualities he is mainly indebted for his brilliant successes as the ruler of France and the arbiter of Europe. He has known when to step in his military adventures, as we have seen from his

peace with Russia and his peace with Austria, on the heels of successes in each case, which would have only sharpened the appetite of his uncle for larger enterprises. But in his treatment of the Pope the patient diplomacy of the third Napoleon presents the most striking contrast to the ruinous audacity of his uncle. The causes of his overthrow Talleyrand summed up in these words: "Spain, Russia and the Pope." Louis Napoleon has avoided all these dangers except Russia; for the real Russia with which he has become entangled is Mexico. He undertook this Mexican enterprise upon false calculations. He blundered sadly in his estimates of the strength of Jeff. Davis and the weakness of the government of the United States. With the collapse of the so-called Southern confederacy, which he did not provide for, his mistake in Mexico became apparent to all the world. But there he is, with his character for sagacity and his prestige of success both imperilled, and what is he to do?

He cannot abruptly withdraw without humiliation; he cannot expect to remain without preparing for war. We conclude, however, that his warlike preparations at Vera Cruz are only "to keep up appearances," that he is only putting a bold face upon a bad bargain, and manœuvring to secure the honors of a voluntary retirement as from an enterprise accomplished, yet magnanimously abandoned for the sake of peace. We have heard that if permitted to secure the complete suppression of every vestige of the republic he will be prepared to withdraw the empire. But whatever his designs may be, we are satisfied that President Johnson has been pursuing a course of "masterly inactivity," and that the longer Napoleon delays the inevitable settlement the more troublesome, expensive and dangerous will become his Mexican elephant. We still adhere to the theory of his early retirement; but if he should be tolerated in Mexico till our next Presidential election, that election would involve a popular verdict upon the Monroe doctrine which would be decisive—peace or war.

Modern Civilization and Ancient Theories.—The Influence of the Railroad and the Telegraph on Nations.

Our latest news from Europe gives intimations of possible changes in the national life of Spain, of Belgium and of Great Britain. From Spain we hear faintly the suggestion that the Portuguese frontier should be obliterated; that the Iberian and the Lusitanian should forget their ancient quarrels; that Spanish and Portuguese should join hands and form a single nation. In relation to Belgium it is rumored that an arrangement for its partition is already concluded, by which its effects will pass to Holland, Prussia and France. In the English papers we find a further expression of that readiness to dissolve colonial connections, which, in its full development, will disintegrate the British empire by stripping that Power of its vast foreign dependencies. At first glance these projected possibilities seem to have only the most airy basis, and little or no relation to one another. Indeed, as on the one hand we see the breaking of great Powers into smaller, and on the other the consolidation of smaller into great ones, they appear to be direct contraries, and suggest only inextricable confusion in government relations. Looked at more closely, however, they will appear in their true light, as correlative results of a law of national life; and it will also be seen that, although now regarded by the mass as bare possibilities, they are the inevitable facts of the future.

Modern civilization has changed the condition of national existence. In the earliest ages great empires formed around the person of some hero, and great hereditary monarchies were kept together by a religious machinery that imposed upon the people with the notion that the monarch was of superior essence to other men, born of the gods and descended from heaven. This machinery still exists in China, where the ordinary formula of royalty styles the Emperor brother of the sun and cousin of the planets. But as the world grew more intelligent bold rebels came up everywhere to question these divine origins, or to assert equally divine ones, and the great equally realms were broken up and gave place to numberless small States. Then came the time when great realms were only kept together by the transcendent genius of the ruler. It was no longer sufficient to declare the King greater than other men—he had to be greater and to control all by a superior intellect. The great Khosroo, Cambyses, Semiramis, Alexander, Timur Bee, and Charlemagne are examples of such rulers. Charlemagne kept all Europe in one power at a time when the common necessities of national life tended to break up great empires. Consequently he was no sooner dead than the empire went to pieces and divided into dukedoms and States as numerous and different as the interests and prejudices of the people who had submitted to his rule. It could not be otherwise; for in that age of imperfect communication nations could not be properly governed by a Power resident thousands of miles away. Mountains, rivers, forests, inclement seasons, the absence of roads, separated the parts of an empire from one another, so that it required months for the decrees of a central Power to reach through the realm. Small States were, therefore, a necessity of government.

That condition of national existence prevailed in Europe for hundreds of years, and has been accepted by all the philosophers and made the basis of learned arguments on the inherent weakness of Powers that are territorially great. It has been applied against Russia, and, worse still, against the United States. It is the meaning of De Tocqueville's phrase that our country is "a giant without bones." European writers saw in our vast expansion the certainty of our ruin, and rested upon the Monroe doctrine, that was to spread us out further, as their best ally against us. But these shortsighted persons have failed to notice that the circumstances that weakened Powers of great territorial extent no longer exist. They shut their eyes to the fact that the power that kept nations small by necessity has passed away. They leave the railroad, the steamboat and the electric telegraph out of their arguments—that is, they leave out the present time. They set themselves down as if it were the good year fourteen hundred, and reason accordingly. They forget that modern invention has well nigh annihilated time and space, and that by the present system of intercommunication all Europe is practically no larger than any little single State was in the Middle Ages.

But though the philosophers forget the

great influences of the present time it will be found that they are operating all the same, and moulding the life of the world into new forms. Having made the easy government of large States possible, they have already gone a great way toward obliterating the large number of boundary lines that disfigure the map of Europe. We see how they will operate in the case of Spain, Spain and Portugal—the Spanish peninsula—is practically one country; the differences between the people are only those that have grown up in local prejudices and habits, whose influence the telegraph and the newspaper will destroy. That two such countries should become one is an inevitable fact of the future. Belgium, a merely political nation, will be absorbed by the States from which it was made, in the general consolidation that will recognize no good reason for a nation's existence except a geographical reason, or a reason founded on radical differences of race. But with England the law will, and already does, operate the other way, because the British empire is so scattered over the world that its parts are only held together by long sea voyages. In her case the law does not apply that renders it now more feasible to govern large nations than it was anciently. She will be left behind in the race for national supremacy, and is, therefore, the one vast Power of the earth that this great law will destroy.

The European Nations and the Chinese.—Our Interests in Asia.

The latest advices from China reveal the fact that most of the European Powers are making very slow progress in establishing amicable relations with that country. The policy of alternately drugging with opium, bullying and fighting does not seem to convince the Celestials that those nations which adopt those styles of argument are entitled to their confidence and respect. A nation which has existed till late years for centuries without internal revolution of any moment, and has been free from wars for generations, very naturally looks with suspicion upon the government which resorts to the means that England has been in the habit of using in Asia to advance her commerce. Almost the first step taken by England in her efforts to establish commercial intercourse with the Chinese was to demoralize the people by feeding them with opium. Then came the clandestine trade in that article in violation of the laws of the empire, which in turn led to wars and insurrections. A government whose traditions have been that of non-intercourse with other nations must have had that policy strengthened in their own estimation when they saw that the first fruits of international intercourse were demoralization of the people, war, murder and insurrection. Yet all of these were brought upon the Chinese by the Powers of Europe in their efforts to open that country to their commerce. This mode of procedure is so aversive to that in vogue among the Chinese that we are not surprised that but little progress is made in establishing friendly relations.

Our government has very wisely thrown the weight of its influence against this policy. The intercessions of our representatives at Peking succeeded for a time in breaking up the policy of demanding cession of territories by the Powers of Europe, and thus opened the doors of China, by peaceful means, wider and more effectually than all the threats, bullying and warlike operations of other nations combined could possibly do. But we now learn that the governments of Europe are again resorting to their old dodge, and that efforts are being made to involve this country with them. We trust that our representatives in that quarter will be instructed to keep aloof from all such alliances. While we do not intend to pocket an insult from any foreign government, yet it should not be our policy to plunge ourselves into a war, especially when the reverse of that policy will the best serve our interest, as it clearly will, with the Chinese. We want no cession of territory in Asia; we have sufficient on this continent for our purposes; nor should we assist England, France or any other government in securing grants of that kind from the Emperor of China. If England or any other country desires to engage in war for that purpose let them do it on their own responsibility and accept the consequences. Our true policy is that of a mastery and energetic peace. We are so situated that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by that course. The correctness of this view has already been shown by the large orders which our ship builders have received from the Chinese, and that, too, at the very time when England and other nations were trying to force their trade upon them. The moral effect of peaceful diplomacy has accomplished for us what the threats of war and bullying demands of other countries have failed to bring about. Such will unquestionably lead to this result hereafter.

It is but a short time since the efforts of Russia to construct a telegraph across the Chinese empire were interrupted by the Chinese government. Serious complications were threatened; but we presume that Russia will finally carry her point, although it may arouse such animosity on the part of the authorities in China that it will embarrass for a long time its operations. As one end of this line is to terminate in this country, we can, if we are wise, be the first to receive the advantage and reap the fruits. It will make this country one of the great centers of the world, and by the time that the European governments have overcome the prejudice among the Chinese which their belligerent demonstrations and threats have aroused the current of trade of China will have so strongly set in towards our shores on the Pacific that it will be impossible to change it. That trade will soon become one of the most important of that of any nation. It will be specially valuable to us from the fact that the articles raised and manufactured there which we desire the most are not produced in this country. It is then clearly our policy to maintain friendly relations with the Chinese. The folly of the course of the European nations is too apparent for us to be misled in this respect. A nation that was constantly trying to stir up insurrection in our midst, and endeavoring to demoralize our people in every possible way, should be the last which we would desire to reward with our commerce. However, human nature is the same the world over, not excepting the Chinese. Those Powers which are friendly to that country during the hours of trial will gain the respect and gratitude of both people and government when the troubles disappear, and be rewarded with preference in all commercial intercourse. Let peace, then, be our policy with China.

But though the philosophers forget the

The British Government Continues on Its New Track.

Some days ago we had occasion to allude to the remarkable change in the tactics of the British government and the tone of the London press and its correspondents concerning American affairs. This especially referred to our complications with the policy of European governments. The latest arrivals have confirmed our views.

In one of the London press of a late date we find an article commenting on the speech of Mr. Bigelow, our Minister at Paris, in which a comparison is sagely drawn between the politicians and statesmen of Great Britain and our own prominent representative men. We can draw no other conclusion from the tenor of the article than that the advantage is on our side. The late President Lincoln is taken as the type of the "rough, common sense and ungainly shrewdness" of the intelligent masses of the Union, "the depository of political power;" and General Grant is referred to as having "inherited in some degree the characteristics of the late President." "The strength of the nation," continues the journal from which we quote, "lies in a mass of energetic, industrious and self-reliant men." This is a truth which the British probably learned in previous contests with America; and it was scarcely necessary to avail the triumphant results of the rebellion to acknowledge it. General Grant is spoken of as the "articulate hero," whose words "are few and rugged; but when they come they express the dogged resolution, the arduous slowly kindled, but when once alight steadily maintained, the unflinching pertinacity, and the power of adapting means to ends which, acting together, crushed the Southern confederation, and which we are bound to recognize the more readily because they are among the best characteristics we covet for ourselves."

The heroic memories of Marlborough and Wellington are, it seems, replaced by the greater and more recent achievements of an American general. This is a very strange admission on the part of a leading English print, and must touch the officers in the British army in a tender part. The English heroes of the Crimea, few as they were, seem to have been lost sight of altogether, and instead of looking to France for the heroes of that war, America is accepted, even on English authority, as furnishing the first military captain of the age. The compliment paid to the United States when, "in the moment of their success, flushed with triumph and intoxicated with glory, their armies did not demand to be led against new enemies," and did not murmur at a dismissal, is a fitting commentary upon the sanguinary purposes and grasping ambition of the English while employing their power to seize and occupy dominions upon which "the sun should never set."

We might continue at length these illustrations of the newly found sympathy of Great Britain for the United States, but do not deem it necessary. It is sufficient for us to know that the trouble brewing between England and France, which has already led to the suspension of the extradition treaty between the two nations, preliminary, as we have predicted, to the complete rupture of the *entente cordiale*, is no particular business of our people or government. Whatever the result may be, the United States are sure to be benefited by their quarrel; and we can afford to be quiet for a while, amid all the complications and clashing among European dynasties, resting upon the laurels we have won in one of the most gigantic struggles of modern times.

Municipal Reform and Reformers.

When men grow rich they become conservative. Satisfied with the world as it is, they do not care to try to make it what it ought to be. To this general rule there are very few exceptions, and these exceptions are men of such marked genius that while advocating necessary reforms they never allow themselves to degenerate into mere destructives, like the rampant radicals. Unfortunately this city possesses but a small number of such reformers. We have plenty of rich men, but they are perfectly contented to count over their millions, and are never willing to give a few dollars, or even a few cents, toward remedying the evils of which they are often the loudest to complain. They will not take the trouble to go to the polls to vote, and yet they heartily denounce dishonest officials at their dinner tables. They do nothing to render our municipal burdens less, but they grumble terribly when they are called upon to pay heavy taxes. They will give their names to a reform party perhaps, but they will never give anything else in every instance within our recollection they have permitted the most unscrupulous politicians to use so-called reform parties for mercenary ends, until it has passed into a proverb that the worst men have the best changes of election when the cry of reform is raised during a municipal canvass. Would it be a self-evident truth that the witty citizens of this metropolis are direct and indirectly responsible for the mismanagement of our city affairs, and that no help is to be expected from them in any scheme for the improvement of our local government.

Two letters which have been recently published fully elucidate this view of the fact, and show up our municipal reform and reformers in a very singular light. The first letter was addressed to the editor of the Journal by an agent of the Citizens' Association shortly after the Mayoralty election. The second letter has been sent to Government by one of our city politicians. In the former epistle our readers were treated to a misleading view of city politics. The writer expels the means by which the so-called reform clique had been swindled out of his money by "kiss" and out of his election by the lukewarmness and disaffection of the rich members of the citizens' combination, who allowed the politicians to get hold of him and sell him off for cash. The letter to Governor Fenwick goes further than this, and reveals to us the illicit connection between these politicians and municipal reformers. The writer begins by stating that, for reasons satisfactory to himself, was desirous of a change in the leadership of the democratic party in this city, and thenceforward to secure "a great personal triumph" he made charges against the Comptroller. He then continues:—"I was assured finding members of the republican party, notably identified with the State Executive, if a fair pretext could be presented for the exercise of the power of removal vested in the Comptroller, Mr. Brennan should be removed and negotiations were actually entered upon. I had reason to believe, with your ready approval, to secure his office (the